

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 ACDA-12 /068 W  
-----047408 171732Z /50

O R 171538Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5465  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MADRID  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL OPORTO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL  
COMUSFORAZ

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EO 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: AZOREAN DEMONSTRATORS ATTACK GOP MINISTER

SUMMARY: GOP MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO ANTONIO ALMEIDA  
SANTOS WAS PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED IN PONTA DELGADA APRIL 15  
DURING A VISIT TO CONSULT WITH AZOREAN SOCIALIST PARTY LEADERS.  
PRIME MINISTER SOARES REACTED IMMEDIATELY AND THE GOP HAS  
ORDERED A FULL INVESTIGATION. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER ATTACKED: UPON ARRIVAL AT PONTA DELGADA AIRPORT APRIL  
15 FOR CONSULTATION WITH PS LEADERS MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO  
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SANTOS WAS VERBALLY ASSUALTED BY A GROUP OF ABOUT 50 DEMONSTRATORS.  
THE MAJORITY, ACCORDING TO LISBON PRESS REPORTS, WERE RETURNEES  
FROM THE EX-COLONIES AND AZOREAN LIBERATION FRONT (FLA) SYM-  
PATHIZERS. SANTOS WAS HURRIED TO PS HEADQUARTERS WHERE ANOTHER  
GROUP OF 150-200 DEMONSTRATORS REPORTEDLY KEPT MOST PS MEMBERS  
FROM ENTERING. SERVERAL DEMONSTRATORS THEN ENTERED THE PS  
OFFICES, SINGING THE FLA ANTHEM, SHOUTING, "LONG LIVE THE

FLA," AND DEMANDING THAT SANTOS LEAVE. AS PS MEMBERS ATTEMPTED TO SUMMON POLICE, TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL LINES WERE CUT. AS SANTOS AND OTHER PS MEMBERS TRIED TO LEAVE, THE MINISTER WAS PHYSICALLY ASSAULTED. APPARENTLY SEEING THAT THE SITUATION WAS OUT OF HAND, TWO DEMONSTRATORS HUSTLED SANTOS INTO A CAR AND TO THE AIRPORT WHERE HE RECEIVED MINOR MEDICAL TREATMENT. SANTOS DEPARTED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY FOR SANTA MARIA.

2. SOARES CALLS FOR FULL INVESTIGATION: PRIME MINISTER SOARES RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY AND SAID "THIS UNSPEAKABLE DEED MUST BE PUNISHED--AND PUNISHED EXEMPLARILY." THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MET IN EMERGENCY SESSION SUNDAY, APRIL 16 ND ORDERED A FULL INVESTIGATION. ALSO:

--A PS COMMUNIQUE ACCUSED THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE AZOREAN POLICE FORCES OF FAILING TO FULFILL THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES.

--AZOREAN REGIONAL LEADER MOTA AMARAL IN LISBON FOR PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING REFUSED TO RETURN TO THE AZORES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT THE INVESTIGATION WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THAT HIS RETURN WOULD "OVERDRAMATIZE" THE SITUATION.

--FLA LEADER JOSE DE ALMEIDA DENIED THAT THE FLA HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE EVENTS, BUT ADMITTED THAT THERE COULD HAVE BEEN SOME FLA SYMPATHIZERS AMONG THE DEMONSTRATORS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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--PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE OPERATIONS TOLD CHMAAG APRIL 16 THAT THE PAF MIGHT BE USED TO FERRY TROOPS TO THE ISLANDS.

3. SANTOS SPECULATES ON BACKGROUND CAUSES: IN DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESS, SANTOS CITED A RECENT "AZORES" NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL WHICH HE CLAIMED HIGHLIGHTED HIS OWN INVOLVEMENT IN THE FORMULATION OF THE PROVISIONAL STATUTE FOR AZOREAN REGIONAL AUTONOMY AND, HE CLAIMED, IMPLIED THAT HE HAD USED HIS INFLUENCE TO MINIMIZE AZOREAN AUTONOMY. SANTOS NOTED THE PRESENCE OF RETURNEES FROM THE FORMER COLONIES AMONG THE DEMONSTRATORS AND SPECULATED THAT SOME WERE VENTING ANGER AT THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS, IN WHICH HE WAS INVOLVED.

4. COMMENT: PHYSICAL MANHANDLING OF SANTOS -- WHATEVER THE DEGREE OF FLA INVOLVEMENT -- VISIBLY DEMONSTRATES GOP PROBLEM IN MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER IN AZORES. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY IS ALSO CALLED INTO QUESTION. HENCE SOARES'S STATEMENTS AND EMERGENCY CABINET MEETING. WE EXPECT GOP TO REACT AND TO BEEF UP SECURITY FORCES IN AZORES. REAL TEST OF GOP RESOLVE WILL BE ARREST AND PUNISHMENT OF THOSE WHO INSTIGATED VIOLENCE AGAINST SANTOS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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